

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /085 W

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R 261816Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

SECDEF

DOD WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PARM, US, UR, NATO

SUBJECT: BRITISH REACTIONS TO US-SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCORD

1. BRITISH PRESS HAS WITHOUT EXCEPTION WELCOMED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY PRESIDENT FORD AND MR. BREZHNEV ON A NEW ACCORD TO LIMIT STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE NOTING HOST OF PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE BETWEEN VLADIVOSTOK AND A SALT II AGREEMENT (E.G. OPPOSITION FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. CONGRESS; MILITARY LEADERS IN BOTH COUNTRIES; THE

U.S. ARMS INDUSTRIES AND ITS SPONSOR, "THE SENATOR FROM BOEING;" AND GREAT POWER CLASHES OVER OTHER ISSUES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST), MOST JOURNALS ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ASSURANCES "WE ARE IN THE BALLPARK" ON THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF A NEW SALT AGREEMENT AND THAT, THEREFORE FULL AGREEMENT BY NEXT JUNE IS A REASONABLE GOAL.

2. "HOPE" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD FOR MUCH OF THE 25 AND 26 NOVEMBER EDITORIAL COMMENT, WITH SEVERAL JOURNALS POINTING UP WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNSETTLING ASPECTS OF THE FORD-BREZHNEV ACCORD. THE GUARDIAN NOTES THAT LAST WEEK-END'S "BREAKTHROUGH" IS JUST AN "AGREEMENT TO AGREE" AND STATES THAT, EVEN IF THE MILITARY ON EACH SIDE CAN BE SATISFIED THAT IT WILL HAVE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND WEAPONS, "IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THERE WILL BE MORE MISSILES IN THE 1980S AND THAT THEY WILL BE EVEN DEADLIER". THE TELEGRAPH STRESSES MOSCOW'S REPUTATION AS A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR AND ASKS HOW THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY SOVIET IRBMS AIMED AT EUROPE, THE USSR'S POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF A FIRST-STRIKE CAPABILITY, AND DIFFICULTIES IN VERIFICATION ARE TO BE RESOLVED.

3. THE TIMES AND THE FINANCIAL TIMES EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO VIEW ANY NEW SALT AGREEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF BOTH US-SOVIET AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS AS A WHOLE. "DETENTE IS INDIVISIBLE," EDITORIALIZED THE TIMES; "RUSSIAN INTENTIONS MUST BE TESTED NOT ONLY IN SALT BUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AND IN THE FOOD AND ENERGY CRISES ...THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH NOW FOLLOW FROM THE AGREEMENT WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY FOR MUCH MORE THAN WHAT THEY ACHIEVE IN TERMS OF NUCLEAR HARDWARE".

4. WRITING FROM WASHINGTON, THE GUARDIAN'S SIMON WINCHESTER SAYS CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO A NEW SALT ACCORD WILL COME ONLY FROM THE RIGHT, WHOSE PHILOSOPHY REFLECTS A DEMAND FOR CONSTANCY OF MILITARY MIGHT AND A DEEP SKEPTICISM OF BOTH DETENTE AND ARMS LIMITATION. HE LAMENTS A TOTAL LACK OF "DOVE-ISH OPPOSITION" TO THE NEW AGREEMENT, "WHICH WILL ACTUALLY DO A DISSERVICE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARMS CONTROL BY MERELY ALTERING THE DIRECTION OF THE ARMS RACE".

5. OFFICIAL INTEREST IS EXTREMELY HIGH. WE HAVE PROVIDED TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S 24 NOVEMBER PRESS BRIEFING TO FCO AND MOD, WHICH ARE EAGER TO HAVE MORE DETAIL AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. WE WOULD EXPECT TO BEGIN RECEIVING INFORMAL OFFICIAL REACTIONS SOON AFTER

LATTER IS PROVIDED AND DIGESTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY PLANS, SALT TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON15522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740343-0767
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741112/aaaaajtl.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH REACTIONS TO US-SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCORD
TAGS: MARR, PARM, US, UR, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005